



June 7, 2016

To: Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

From: Sara King, AICP, Director Planning and Asset Management, Portland Public Schools

Re: Composite Zoning Proposal for Benson High School

Dear Commissioners:

As you know, PPS schools are resources that benefit all city residents. To best serve the many needs of the Portland community, these schools need to be adaptable for a variety of uses. Zoning is a critical component when planning for more flexible and equitable utilization of these resources.

The proposed zoning change for Portland Public Schools (PPS) Benson High School (Benson) at 546 NE 12th Ave from High Density Residential to Central Employment zoning will support its modernization, build robust industry partnerships, and allow PPS to better respond to the needs of our students, families, and communities-at-large.

PPS encourages the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission to approve the proposed zone change and recommend adoption by City Council for the following reasons:

- Central Employment zoning for Benson is fully compatible with surrounding land use and development. Benson is directly adjacent to the Central Eastside Industrial Area and adjacent zoning is Central Commercial, Central Employment, and General Industrial.
- Central Employment zoning is consistent with Comp Plan policies for school facility adaptability (8.97) and income self-sufficiency (6.27). Benson is a polytechnic school where students enroll in Health Science and Industry/Engineering vocational pathways and become prepared to join the workforce.
- Central Employment zoning will allow Benson to undertake modernization that can support programmatic relationships with Central Eastside industry and workforce development.

I would like to thank the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) staff for their continued engagement with PPS, in particular Eric Engstrom and Deborah Stein, during the Comprehensive Plan Update process. Dialogue at the staff level between PPS and BPS remains essential to our partnership with the City of Portland. PPS looks forward to further discussions about appropriate changes in zoning for all school sites to better support Comprehensive Plan Update goals and policies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sara King'.

Sara King, AICP

Director Planning and Asset Management, Portland Public Schools